



HALF OF A CENTURY AT THE KEY

Career of Col. Tree, of
the Western Union.

RETIRED AFTER
A LABORIOUS LIFE

Mr. F. E. Clary, a Western
Man, Takes His Place Here.

REMINISCENCES ARE
FULL OF INTEREST

Colonel Tree Tells of Many Changes
that Have Occurred Since He Be-
gan Life as a Telegrapher.
A Brief Sketch of the
New Superintend't
Now Here.

The retirement of Colonel J. B. Tree as superintendent of the Western Union office, this city, recalls facts about his long and useful career that are interesting to a degree and involve a history of telegraphy in America.

Colonel Tree is almost without doubt the oldest telegrapher in America, and therefore in the world, for here this thing of "writing at a distance" by the means of an electrical wire began.

Pondering on the part telegraphy plays and has played in the world's history, one is apt to look upon the man as associated with the progress of the world, and he did so with great charm to the entertainment of his younger colleagues. Fortunately he preserved a copy of this interesting paper, and it is given here.

Half a Century Ago.

In the winter of 1857, said he, I found myself located as a telegraphic pupil in the old brick building, used by the postoffice authorities in the city. It was a city postoffice; a grand marble building now stands on the site.

The ground floor was used by the post-office people; the second story was occupied by the combined offices of the Magnetic Telegraph Company, then in operation between Washington and New York, and the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company, then under construction over county roads and highways.

Alfred Vail, a coadjutor of Professor Morse, was supervising both offices, and with Amos Kendall, a former Postmaster-General, occupied adjoining rooms on the same floor with the telegraph offices. A flight of wooden steps built on the outside of the house connected the pavements with the second floor. Up that long flight of steps the company's patrons would daily trudge to hand their messages over a hinged plank across the door, serving as a counter and as a desk upon which their messages were written.

Webster, Clay, Calhoun, Alexander Stevens of Georgia (the latter to become Vice-President of the Confederate States) were frequent visitors to the office, to send messages and paid the heavy tolls required at that early day for transmission. Chiefly Professor Morse was also a frequent visitor.

We had "sound" operators in our office even then, but it was in violation of rules to receive a message by that method. The register, with its spindle and accompanying roll of paper, the embossed letters of the Morse alphabet being printed thereon by the steel point of the pen lever, was the mode. This was fifty-three years ago. Telegraphers of this year of our Lord 1900 would be astounded if they were asked to climb up on a high three-legged stool, and with the paper ribbon in their left hand, wind up four feet of catgut cord, suspending a heavy weight with the other hand, to keep the register in motion until the message was fully received.

Fancy a long special of two or three thousand words about congressional proceedings being handled now at such a slow rate! Fancy an operator working from 8 A. M. to 2 and 3 A. M. next morning on a dead stretch, when a foreign steamer off Sandy Hook had been sighted and Reporter Abbott, of New York, notified (as he always did) all offices to keep open for steamer news! Fancy the fact that night operators and day operators were as yet an unknown factor in telegraphic methods, and realize in full, ye latter day operators, the superiority of the system of to-day!

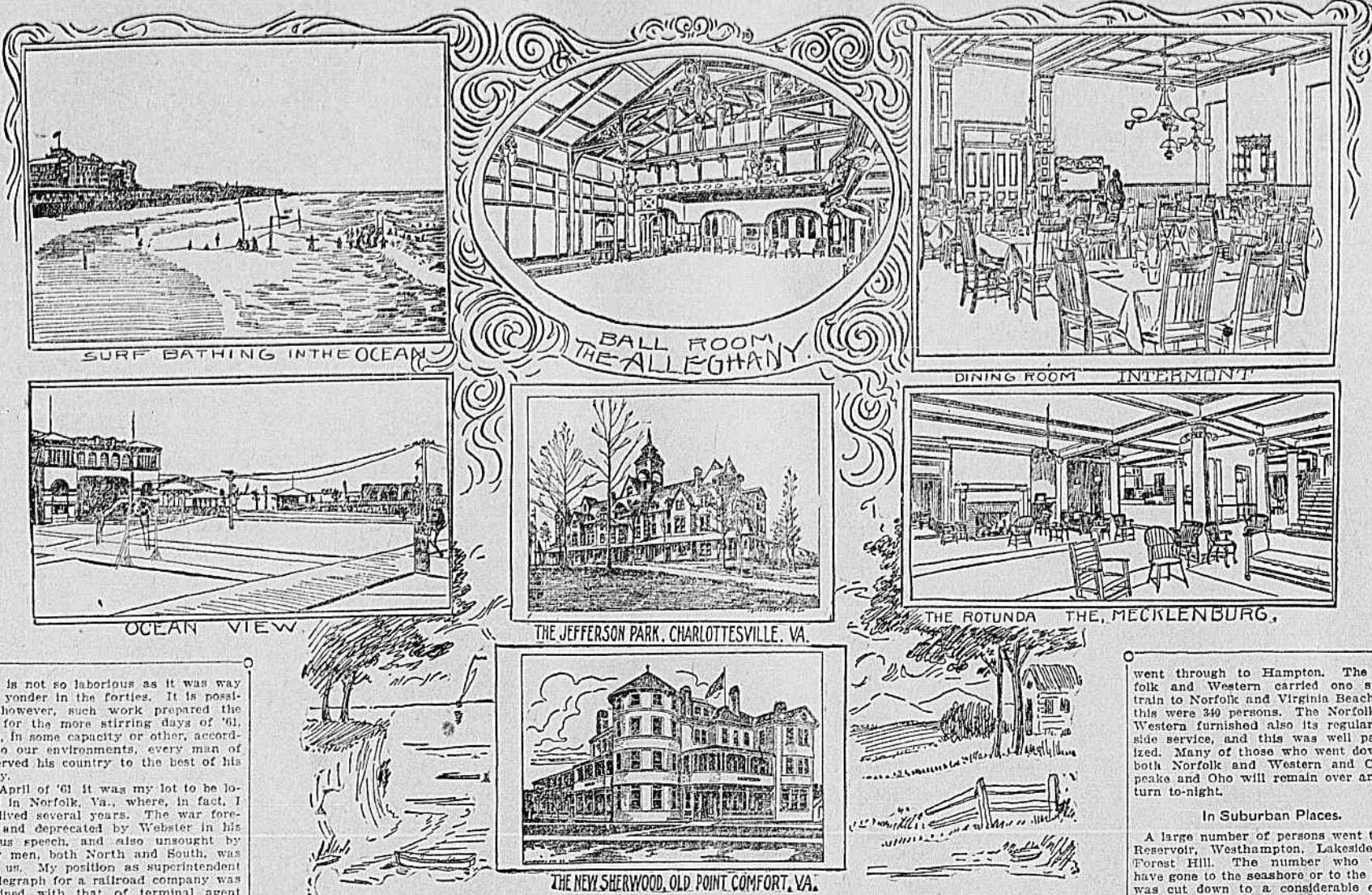
We worked grove cells for main and local batteries. The chief operator or some one delegated by him had to clean them. Fancy a fellow long before an early breakfast, and before the office opened, breathing in the fumes of nitric acid, in the battery room, and giving his line a mercury bath after cleaning them. Let us suppose the line is broken, ruptured by grounds, crosses or breaks, what did the "Old Timer" do then, poor thing? Why, he only went for his saddle-bags, containing his line equipment, sent a messenger boy for a saddle horse, mounted his mettlesome steed, and trotted away for many a weary mile over the worst roads in old Virginia, to remove the trouble.

Many times have our operators ridden miles, climbed poles and cut wires and tested with Washington, to see if the operator at the other end, "all booted and spurred," had found the break. Frequently the reply was negative; then connecting line again, he would climb down the pole, mount his steed, and trot away for "pastures new."

Very Different Now.

Happily for the operator of the present day, there are day and night operators, battery men and line men, and their

WHERE THE TEE-DEE OUTING PARTIES WILL ENJOY THEMSELVES.



DUORO WINS HANDICAP

Colt's Fine Horse Captures
Long Island Stakes.

IMMENSE CROWD PRESENT

Fully Forty Thousand Witness the Event
in Which Blues and Herbert Figure,
but Are Beaten—Other
Results.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, July 4.—One of the biggest crowds ever present at the Coney Island Jockey Club track was in attendance to-day. Fully forty thousand persons saw J. W. Colt's Duoro, with Redfern up, win the Long Island Handicap, a one mile and a furlong race. The horse was quoted at 10 to 1. Herbert was second and the favorite, Rosehampton, third. Blues made the running for half a mile, where Herbert took the lead and held it to the stretch. Reform then sent the Colt horse to the front and won driving by two lengths. Summary:

First race—The Independence Steeplechase, about two miles and a half—Land of Clover (13 to 1) first, Foxhunter (8 to 1) second, Lavator (14 to 1) third. Time, 5:15 2-5.

Second race—High Weight Handicap—

six furlongs on main track—Rigodon (15 to 1) first, Duke of Kendal (8 to 1) second, Cinquevall (11 to 1) third. Time, 1:13 2-5.

Third race—The Spring—Last six furlongs of Futurity course—Dallant (8 to 1) first, Broomstick (2 to 1) second, Moharib (3 to 1) third. Time, 1:13 1-5.

Fourth race—The Long Island Handicap—one mile and a furlong—Duoro (10 to 1) first, Rosehampton (2 to 1) second, Rosehampton (18 to 1) third. Time, 1:53 1-4.

Fifth race—Five and a half furlongs, selling—Vagary (7 to 1) first, Excentral (5 to 1) second, Trouville (6 to 1) third. Time, 1:45.

Sixth race—one mile and a sixteenth on turf, selling—Tribes Hill (6 to 1) first, Dark Planet (3 to 1) second, Arden (15 to 1) third. Time, 1:49 1-5.

LIGHTNING KILLS BOY:

HIS FATHER NEAR BY

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NEWARK, July 4.—Thomas J. Gordon, Jr., fifteen years old, was instantly killed by lightning at Essex Falls, near Caldwell, yesterday afternoon. His father was plowing less than twenty feet away, and saw his son struck. Mr. Gordon was not even stunned. The body of the boy was badly marked and one foot was split in two. A tin pail, which he had been carrying, was melted and the ground torn up to a depth of two feet.

A DWARF IS KILLED BY CANNON HE MADE

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

JERSEY CITY, July 4.—Augustus Edgerly, twenty-one years old, was killed to-night by a cannon of his own make. Edgerly was a dwarf, about four feet high, and had no relatives and no home.

GEN. CLAY KEEPS VISITORS AT BAY

Armed With Pistols and Rifle
He Declines to Permit
Any to Enter.

A Lexington, Ky., special to the New York Herald says:

General Cassius M. Clay is to-night apparently seriously ill in a room in his mansion, White Hall, in Madison county. Major R. S. Bullock, cashier of the Fayette National Bank, of this city, a life-long friend of General Clay, received a message yesterday from the General's bodyguard, "Joe" Perkins, saying the General had asked for a physician to be sent to his bedside.

Major Bullock responded immediately, and within two hours he had Dr. W. O. Bullock, of this city, and Dr. Thomas S. Bullock, of Louisville, in the front yard of the General's residence. That is as far as they went, as General Clay issued orders to his servant not to allow them to enter under any circumstances, and after two hours of pleading they returned to this city.

Perkins told the doctors that General Clay was seated on the bed with two revolvers by his side and a rifle in his hands and would not let any one enter. General Clay had Perkins telegraph to his nephew, Green Clay Goodloe, of Washington, to come to see him, but when Mr. Goodloe arrived the General refused to allow him to enter, and he returned to Washington without seeing his uncle.

According to reports from the servant, General Clay eats and sleeps well, but calls constantly for his former child wife, Dora Clay Brock, whose last husband died last Sunday, and who has promised the General to return to White Hall. It is believed by many that the return of Dora will restore the General's good temper. If she refuses to return to him his relatives will use force if necessary to send him to a sanitarium for treatment. General Clay is sixty-seven years old.

IN PARK OR BY SEASIDE

Richmond Streets Deserted
on the Glorious Fourth.

OCEAN SHORE POPULAR

Cool, Bursting Surf Seemed to Have
the Greatest Charm for the Capital
City Pedestrians — Families
Spent Day in the Parks.

Where the people scattered themselves yesterday, the "Glorious Fourth," can never be fully told except by themselves. They did not remain in Richmond, or, if any considerable number did, they kept to their homes, for never were the streets of the city more generally deserted.

The stores that were open were exceptions. The great majority of business places were closed throughout the day, and those that kept open did but little business. Of course, many went to the seashore. The Chesapeake and Ohio road sent out five or six trains oceanward. The first section of not less than eight coaches carried 531 persons; the second section carried 510, and the third about 150. No account is taken of regular local trains, which leave at 7:45. Besides these the Chesapeake and Ohio handled an excursion from Washington to Richmond and Hampton. This was conducted for colored people only, and 255 came southward. Of this number 141

went through to Hampton. The Norfolk and Western carried one special train to Norfolk and Virginia Beach. On this were 340 persons. The Norfolk and Western furnished also its regular seaside service, and this was well patronized. Many of those who went down on both Norfolk and Western and Chesapeake and Ohio will remain over and return to-night.

In Suburban Places.

A large number of persons went to the Reservoir, Westhampton, Lakeside and Forest Hill. The number who would have gone to the seashore or to the parks was cut down to a considerable extent by the intense heat of the morning. Many thought of burning sands and glaring sunlight, and remained at home, where a neglected form of dress is not considered in such bad taste, where one's collar does not melt and the fans have no rest.

The play houses were poorly patronized at either afternoon or night performance. This is particularly true of the matinee shows.

The Rain Came.

The blessed rain came in the afternoon just about the time the matinees were over, and the rain-caught people took refuge gladly in the refreshment places. Ginger ale, limeade, soda water and the many other drinks were quaffed with pure delight, because the people "had nothing else to do."

The smallest number of fireworks possible were set off. Now and then the sound of a pop-cracker was heard, or the bursting of a better-grown popper. But it was generally conceded by the small boy, even, that it was too hot for fireworks.

ARRESTED AT MIDNIGHT UNDER AUTOMOBILE LAW

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., July 4.—Richard Cadle, a piano manufacturer of New York, after having been compelled to get out of bed in the middle of the night and submit to arrest for violation of the automobile law, has settled the case out of court.

Accompanied by his wife, Mr. Cadle was riding in his automobile through Bloomingburg last night on his way to Monticello. The machine frightened a horse belonging to Frank Cuno, causing it to jump a fence. The wagon was wrecked and Cuno was considerably injured.

Mr. Cadle, who had gone on to Wurtsboro, was followed by a policeman. He gave bail for his appearance in court, but before the hearing settled with the injured man.

THE LUCKY WINNERS OF UMBRELLAS

Ladies Who Were Victors
in the Contest.

OVER TWENTY-FIVE
THOUSAND VOTES

There Were Twenty-eight Con-
testants for the Prizes.

CONCERNING THE
TEE-DEE OUTING

Nearly Forty-five Thousand Votes Have
Been Polled — Something About
the Delightful Resorts that May
Be Visited—The Present
Standing of Those
In the Race.

Miss Irene Robinson and Miss Cenie Schaaf are the winners of the two ladies' umbrellas offered for the largest vote cast last week. The young ladies have three thousand four hundred and sixty-four coupons to their credit on the umbrella contest, leading the next highest by nearly three hundred votes.

There were twenty-eight entries and over 25,000 votes were cast.

The Tee-Dee Contest.

The regular Tee-Dee Outing Tours contest is growing positively exciting. There are thirty-four entries and up to noon yesterday the total vote was nearly forty-five thousand.

There have been some quite material changes since the last statement was published and the "lucky fourteen" class is creeping up into the thousands instead of hundreds of votes. A number of new names will be found in the "lucky fourteen" class to-day.

Only eight more days remain in which to deposit coupons. A noticeable fact is that the leaders have deposited a large number of voting certificates. Voting certificates count heavy.

Here is the Plan.

The Times-Dispatch will issue from the main office certificates of votes in various numbers, which will be counted as coupons, based on the following plan: For each paid-in-advance subscription, for a person not already a subscriber, a certificate will be issued for half as many votes as there are cents in the price of the subscription. For instance, 12 cents for one week's subscription in Richmond or Manchester would be equal to six votes. Fifty cents for one month's subscription would entitle to three hundred votes, or \$5 for one year out-of-town would give 250 votes, etc.

Points to Remember.

Some points that it will pay to keep in mind are that the winners will have a week at the seashore or a week in the mountains, free railroad fares and hotel bills paid by the Tee-Dee.

There will be fourteen parties. Each party will consist of three ladies, one being chosen as chaperone by the two principals. Forty-two people in all.

The offer is made to any lady, anywhere who by their own efforts contribute in part to the Tee-Dee fund, by being employed in office, schools, store, factory or at home.

There are seven Tee-Dee Resorts and the party having the highest number of votes on the annual coupon will have first choice of resorts and first choice as to whether they go the first week or not.

The second highest and so on to the fourteenth will be considered as per their standing.

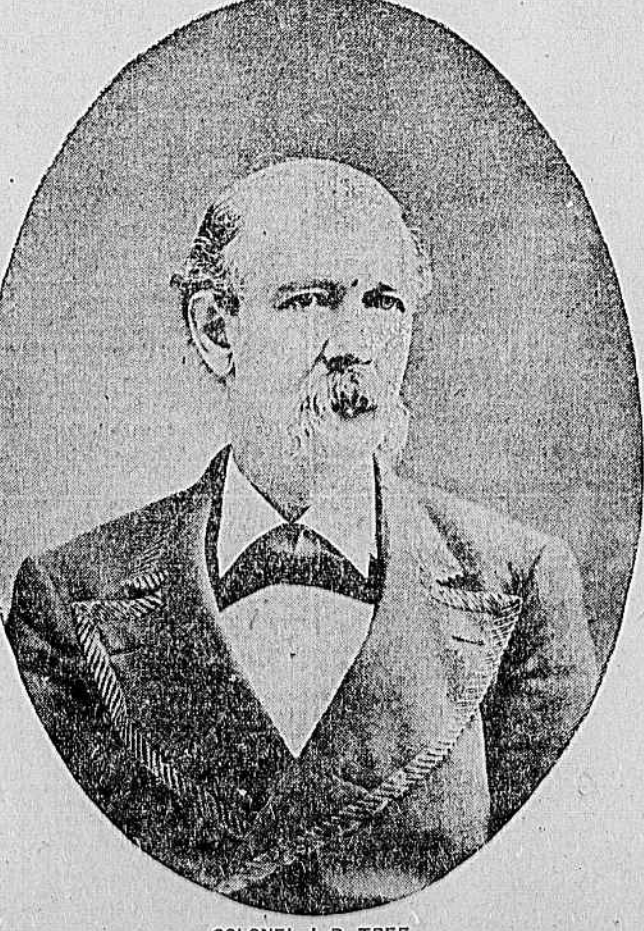
Send Your Home Address.

Every contestant whose name appears in the Tee-Dee Outing Tours statement printed to-day is requested to send in their home address to the "Manager Tee-Dee Outing Tours." This request should be attended to promptly as it will be necessary shortly to communicate with each contestant on a matter of importance connected with the contest.

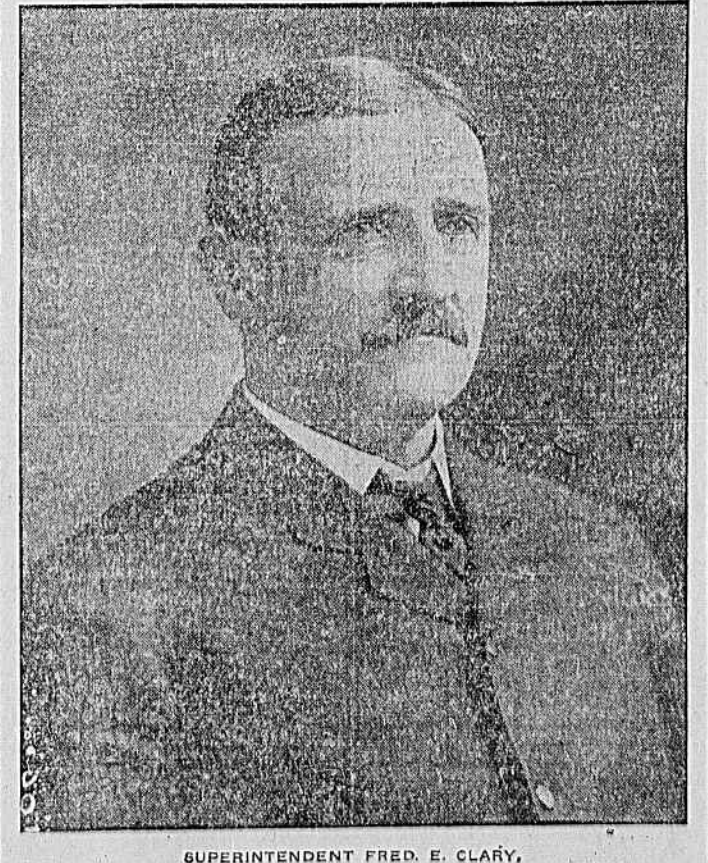
STANDING OF ENTRIES FOR UMBRELLA CONTEST WEEK ENDING JULY 4TH.

Miss Irene Robinson	3,444
Miss Cenie Schaaf	3,165
Miss Helen East	2,508
Miss Mildred Jones	2,400
Miss Eugenia Coghill	2,157
Mrs. F. M. Timberlake	1,700
Miss Aurelia Timberlake	1,690
Miss Dora Berry	1,503
Miss Sadie Taylor	1,584
Miss L. Booth	1,084
Miss E. Hicks	1,084
Miss Annie Smith	1,084
Miss Katie Smith	1,084
Miss Rosalie Robinson	1,084
Miss Edna V. Branch	1,084
Miss Ora Reynolds	1,084
Miss Carrie Reynolds	1,084
Miss Frances Overby	1,084
Miss Virginia Overby	1,084
Miss Mary B. Thaw	1,084
Miss Alice B. Thaw	1,084
Miss Mary Tillman	1,084
Miss Louise Kesslich	1,084
Miss Bertha Bowles	1,084
Miss Sadie Floy	1,084
Miss Lizette Winston	1,084
Miss Pauline Gary	1,084
Miss Eva Mann	1,084
Miss Lee Durway	1,084
Miss Annie Bray	1,084
Miss Lillie Todd	1,084
Miss Daisy Hunt	1,084
Miss M. Sammie Hunt	1,084
Miss Julia Jones	1,084
Miss Vera Jones	1,084

(Continued on Ninth Page)



COLONEL J. B. TREE,
Retiring Superintendent Western Union.



SUPERINTENDENT FRED E. CLARY,
Of the Western Union